WHAT ARE THE

ROGATION DAYS?

Depository, Church House,
N. E. Cor. 12th and Walnut Sts., Philad'a, Pa.

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THE Rogation or Supplication Days are the three days immediately preceding the Festival of our Lord's Ascension. They were first appointed in the fifth century, by Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne, in Gaul, as a season of public humiliation, for averting the calamities which threatened his Diocese.

The Rogation Days are now enjoined by the Church to be kept with Fasting and "extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion" for the following reasons:—

1. To supplicate Almigty God, that He may avert the dangers and judgments now threatening us in Church and State.

2. To invoke a blessing on the fruits of the earth, so as in due time we may enjoy them.

3. To prepare ourselves for the worthy celebration of Holy Thursday.

Prayers, etc., Suited for the Rogation Days.

(*In the Book of Common Prayer.*)

The Litany, or the Communion Service; the Collects for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Quinquagesima, Lent, S. Matthias' Day and S. Mark's Day, and the "Prayer for Unity among occasional prayers."

Also one or more of the following Psalms: —*Psalm* 25, 43, 44, 80, 102, 121, 122, 123, 133 and 104.

Also for Meditation:—*Lam.* iii. 40–50; *Dan.* ix. 16–19; *S. John* xvi. 11–23; *Rev.* iii. 1–3, 14–19.

If your time should be much engaged through necessary employment, use at least the Prayer of Unity, and the following:

O Gracious Father, I humbly beseech Thee, for Thy Holy Catholic Church, and especially for that branch of it to which I belong; that Thou wouldst be pleased to fill it with all truth, with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where it is superstitious, rectify it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, make up the breaches of it; and free it, in Thine own good time, from all perplexity and distress, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.